

SHE BLEW OUT HER BRAINS.

Myrtle Brooce Suicides With "Doc" Richardson's Revolver.

Story of a Long Struggle With Evil—Dawson Not the Golden Land Picture For It—Myrtle Murders to the Last—Dreaded Going to the Theatre After Her Illness—No Bright Clouds Ahead Brings Despondency.

[From Saturday's Extra.]

Myrtle Brooce committed suicide at midnight Friday, by firing a pistol-ball through the head. Myrtle was occupying a room over Sam Bonnell's saloon where she has lain sick since some three weeks ago. For a week past she has been convalescent and expected to go to work again at the Tivoli next Monday—she and her sister Florence doing a very neat double turn of singing and dancing.

The pistol used was a .32-calibre Smith & Wesson, the property of Dr. Richardson, who occupied a room diagonally across the hallway from the suicide, and who was out for several hours in the evening, when the weapon was performed.

Myrtle Brooce is a girl of but 19 years and the story of the struggles which led up to the deed of Friday night make as sad a recitative as any of the many unhappy fates of which Dawson is a witness.

Three weeks ago she found herself weak and nearly delirious with some mysterious fever and called upon Dr. Richardson. He found her in an acute stage of pneumonia with a temperature which rapidly rose to 105 degrees and remained there three days. The thermometers outside showed 40 degrees below zero; her own cabin was frozen up, the hospitals were far away and a chill meant sudden death. Dr. Richardson offered the use of his room across the hall, the room in which the dead girl now lies, it was accepted for her and she was put to bed. A nurse was secured, medicines and nourishment were bought and after two weeks of severe illness the patient became convalescent. The occupants of the "flat," as they style the quarters which are the scene of the tragedy, formed a sincere liking for the girl who was such a "good fellow" among them and Woolrich was welcome to bunk with them until his room could be vacated. But, with returning health, came a necessity of work at the theatre, and next Monday night was fixed as the date of her reappearance. That she dreaded it is evidenced by her expressions to friends.

On Friday evening she was called upon by Alex. McFarlane and Mr. Spitzell, who inquired after her health and noticed no unusual depression or elation in her mental condition, she talked of the theatre, of what she was going to sing and sang over the tune for them. She talked of the new dresses she was to have made on the morrow and discussed them, as if interested. Picking up her novel she noted the ending and remarked: "Look here! the girl is going to kill herself." Later in the interview she promised to look in on him the following day, remarking: "I'll come in tomorrow and give you a call."

At 10:30 the girl was alone and evidently disturbed. At midnight a number of the occupants of the house heard a muffled shot which was yet so feeble as to fail to provoke investigation. At 2 o'clock the sister, Florence, was on her way home to her rooms at the Melbourne and decided to give her sister a call. She was accompanied by two prominent citizens who followed her upstairs. Florence opened the door, found the light still burning and glanced at the bed. In a nearly sitting posture, propped up by pillows, habited in a nightdress, and with the bed covers pulled up a little higher than the waist, there rested her sister with blood still apparently running from her temples. With a shriek Florence fled from the room and in an instant all was hubbub and confusion. Captain Starnes and Corporal Wilson were soon present and Dr. Richardson was aroused from his bed in a twinkling. A touch showed him the girl was dead and cold. A bullet had penetrated the right temple, had passed through the brain and had crashed the skull on the other side, leaving the brains still oozing slowly from the horrible wound. A policeman was placed on guard and the crowd dispersed until the coroner should convene a jury.

LATER EVIDENCE TO THE JURY.

Florence Brooce testified that for the past few weeks her sister, the deceased, had, she thought, been living with H. I. Woolrich. Her sister was not erratic. Deceased had not attempted suicide before.

Dr. Richardson lived in the same building with deceased and had treated her for pneumonia. Had heard the shot but had not located it. Had been called in to see the dead woman about 2 p. m. by Alex. McFarlane. It was his revolver and had been taken from his bureau. Had never known her to drink much. He had no reason to think she had been recently seduced. She was not subject to fits of depression. Knew of no enemies. As far as his knowledge went she was virtuous. Alex. McFarlane had known deceased for the month she had been in the building. Last saw her alive at H. I. B. Was there with Mr. Spitzell and she drank a glass of beer. Thought she was jollier than usual. She was reading a novel "One too many" and likened herself to the heroine who suicided at the end. Was the first to recognize the "gun" as "Doc" Richardson's. The girl did not drink much and he had never heard her ask for anything until the last evening. Had a large unloaded pistol in

his own bureau and had lately found it disturbed. On leaving at 11:15 she had kissed Spitzell "good night" two or three times. To the best of his knowledge she was a virtuous girl.

Adolph Spitzell had known her six or seven weeks. Saw her last about 11:15. She drank one glass of beer. She kissed him "good night" and when half-way down stairs called him back and again kissed him several times. She was not as lively as usual and hated to go back to the theater. She was virtuous as far as he knew.

James Allan Aikman had known deceased since she was in Victoria. When she first came to town deceased had occupied his bed but was absolutely virtuous to the best of his knowledge. When a virtuous woman acted that way he was convinced something was wrong mentally. She told him she had attempted suicide in Victoria and would do it again unless something turned up to rid her of the life which she hated and which brought her the importunities of the men. Woolrich might have been sleeping in his own room the last four or five nights. She had neither money nor clothes. "I told her I would not marry her."

Dr. Thompson told of his examination of the body.

H. I. Woolrich swore the deceased had occupied his room when sick and a nurse had attended her. Had occupied the room with her since convalescent; but she was virtuous all the same. She had neither money nor clothes and never asked for anything. She was worried because she had not been able to send her mother any money. Was not sentimental.

Charles Bush had been sitting at a poker table with Woolrich when the shot was heard. Mr. Hyington had occupied the next room and had been awakened by a shot about 1:30. I. Scafield McDonald is porter at Bonnell's. Had carried up the bottle of beer spoken of. Saw deceased afterwards at head of stairs and looking so lonely and melancholy that he had remarked upon it to a friend downstairs. The night previous had been gathering up glasses upstairs. Deceased told him he couldn't get into Dr. Richardson's room as things were all turned over and a big chair against the door. She said: "We are going to move." Sure enough he found the room turned all upside down. When he saw her at the head of the stairs looking so sorrowful she was singing: "Don't put me away, John."

Archie Grant was called to explain certain statements on the streets. He knew nothing about the case.

John Bonnell had heard the shot. Corporal Wilson told what he found when he was called to the scene.

Constable McPhail had examined the room and found the bullet.

Attorney Sheridan had been retained by Florence to protect the deceased from an unqualified verdict of suicide. He had questioned all the witnesses and the verdict was rendered in a very few minutes. They found that the suicidal act was committed while temporarily insane.

LADY TO REST

The unfortunate girl was laid away as she would have desired had she been a witness of the circumstances. A shapely casket, covered with white cloth, with massive silver-plated handles and trimmings held the remains. The interior was upholstered with blue and white silk. The dead girl was habited in a beautifully trimmed dress of white satin with needle-worked ruffles. White satin shoes adorned the feet which have so often tripped the light fantastic for the amusement of Dawson. The absence of flowers in this land of gloom is painfully apparent. The Rev. Grant read the funeral service where the body had lain in state. The pall bearers were Dr. Richardson, J. A. Aikman, Adolph Spitzell, Charles P. Heath, Alex. McFarlane and David Fox, Jr. A large number of friends also followed and saw the remains laid away in the grounds overlooking the Klondike.

For the Outside.

H. Te Roller, resident agent of the S. Y. T. Co., left for Seattle Wednesday, accompanied by the Rev. Bale. The pair will proceed to where the company's boats are tied up for the winter and will pick up the captain of the Seattle No. 1, and the trio will continue the journey together.

On Thursday, about noon, Charley and Harry Worden left town for the outside amid cheers from a group of friends. Joe Brand is using his dogs to take the gentlemen out and has already engaged to bring in another party of travelers in January. Brand has a team of ten native dogs, all with tails up and feeling gay when they left. Charley Worden has been holding farewell services with his numerous friends for many days and the first couple of days out are not expected to be his best.

To Whom It May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that by an order of the Hon. C. A. Dugas, Judge of the Territorial Court of the Yukon Territory, dated the 8th day of December, 1898, in the case of JAS. M. WILSON, Executor, etc., et al., Plaintiffs vs. THE JOSEPH LADUE GOLD MINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, Defendants, I was appointed Receiver, to take possession of, and manage, conduct and control the business and affairs of the defendant company. You will, therefore, in all matters and things affecting said company, deal with me until the further order of the court. THE JOSEPH LADUE GOLD MINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF YUKON, By A. H. WHITNEY, Receiver. Office: Store building Ladue Co.'s store, Dawson, Y. T., Canada.

A Good Map for 50 Cents.

The Mine Exchange Map of the Klondike Gold Fields should be in the hands of every miner. For sale at the Nugget office. Price 50 cents.

WHO MUST PAY THE ROYALTY?

Is the Claim Owner or the Lay Man the Responsible Party?

Geo. Galsford Plays in Hard Luck—No Memorial Will Be Sent to Congress Asking Aid—A Social at the Dawson Club.

An important case is now awaiting decision in the superior court. The title of the suit is A. J. Anderson vs. Chas. Lamb, the owner of No. 8 Eldorado. Anderson worked a lay on No. 8 last winter. In the agreement no stipulation was made as to payment of royalty by reason of the fact that the general feeling prevailed that no royalty would be collected. When the clean-up arrived it appears that Lamb held out the royalty which was due on the lay. Anderson claims that his contract called for one half of the gross output of the lay and that the claim owner and not the layman is responsible for the royalty. The decision is awaited with much interest as it will settle a great many similar disputes on last winter's lay contracts.

Out of Luck.

Mr. George Galsford is being pursued by an irresistible streak of ill-luck which is hard to depart. In bringing in his outfit to work his claim, No. 7 below on Bonanza, the scow was swamped and everything lost. At Dawson more supplies were purchased and stored in the cabin on the claim. The scow came and again a clean sweep was made. Consoling himself with the reflection that as long as he had health, etc., he proceeded about his work without visible discouragement. One day last week while descending a shaft, something got wrong with the rigging and he went to the bottom in a hurry. He thinks no bones are broken and that he will be ready to try it again, as soon as a few sprains get "limbered" up.

No Memorial to Congress.

There was a meeting of Americans at the office of Consul McCook on Wednesday evening to consider the report of the finance committee prior to an appeal to the U. S. congress for aid for the destitute and dying Americans in and about Dawson. The committee reported through Mr. Bartlett that the first day's work had resulted in promises to the amount of \$1,800 and had also shown the committee a great sympathy among prominent men to sending outside for help.

Mr. Bolster moved, in view of the report of the committee and of the promises of further support, that no necessity exists for an immediate appeal to the U. S. government. Much opposition to this view was developed and innumerable cases of extreme destitution were related by those present. The motion was defeated and a further report of the committee was awaited in one week's time.

The Dawson Club Social.

The Dawson Club gave another of its popular semi-monthly socials on Wednesday evening, with an interesting program. Captain Ogilvie, Corporal Conway, Dr. Dunn and Messrs. Storry, Ritchie and Finney, Stevens and Fred Dunn obliged with songs. In this connection it must be mentioned that Corporal Conway appeared for the first time and his singing was a revelation.

The Dawson champion boxer, "Kid" Williams gave an exhibition of three interesting rounds of sparring with Pat Rooney and afterwards Rooney challenged any man of the club for three more rounds. Dick Brown took up the gauntlet. The utmost interest was shown in the affair and it is altogether probable, from the way Brown handled himself that he may be heard of again in sparring circles. The club is challenging everything in town to a whist tournament.

St. Mary's.

The report for the week ending December 7th, shows 15 new patients, 14 convalescents discharged, leaving 16 patients still in the hospital. The deaths were as follows:

- D. Goudy, aged 45, of New Brunswick, N. S., on Dec. 2d.
- J. Park, aged 25, of Los Angeles, Cal., on Dec. 3d.
- J. Hickey, aged 53, of Seattle, Wash., on Dec. 4th.
- J. Tyler, aged 56, of Stockton, Cal., on Dec. 6th.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

- Arthur Kreiner paid \$5 and costs for committing a nuisance.
- J. Curwin paid \$50 and costs for too many chickens in making a living.
- H. McDougal over estimated his capacity, fell all over himself and paid a fine of \$25 and costs.
- W. Brenner reached a point of irresponsible jollity and contributed therefor \$20 and costs.
- C. Cochran developed a penchant for other people's property. For six months nothing will be allowed within his reach.
- M. Fagin had a gun. He couldn't keep that fact to himself and as a result paid \$25 and costs and he hasn't got the gun.
- Jenkins Llewellyn is accused of using his word carelessly and will have to stand his trial in the superior court for that same.
- George Hurley is partial to a "wee drap;" the "wee drap" asked for company and so on until the magistrate called a halt with \$25 and costs.
- J. P. Worden borrowed \$250 from a man named Keith and gave security on two claims which he claimed is fraud unless he substitutes his own property. He was committed to the higher court for trial. This man is no relation to the popular Charley Worden.
- Prisoner O'Brien, serving five months for receiving stolen goods, got away from his escort on Wednesday evening while shovelling snow in front of one of the public buildings and has not yet been recaptured. A swift special policeman has been despatched down river to overtake him if he has gone in that direction.

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